DECLASSIFIED EXCISE

Meeting
Tuesday
August 19, 1952

Staff meeting.

Reed Harris, Dr. Compton's deputy, discussed the organizational change in IIA which the Secretary has approved. Instead of having a Foreign Service Officer as executive head, they will get someone with radio experience. The man they have in mind is Mr. Morton, who about ten years ago was a Vice President of RCA.

I went over to a meeting at Defense with Messrs. Matthews, Bohlen, Allison and Ferguson. Lovett, Foster, the Service Secretaries, and some of the Chiefs of Staff and military advisers were there. Lovett said they wanted to obtain State's views on the suggested rapid equipment of two Chinese Nationalist Divisions on Formosa for use in Korea.

I said we opposed their use in Korea for a variety of reasons:

(1) It would put an end to any remaining hope of achieving an armistice in Korea.

(2) It would be ill-received by our Allies.

(3) It would be resented by some, if not all, of the neutral Asian countries.

(4) It would seem preferable that, in order to meet Defense's views on the eventual withdrawal of American troops, more Rok divisions should be trained and equipped rather than Chinese Nationalist ones. Moreover, Defense admitted this would be quicker and cheaper.

(5) We understood there were [redacted] military reasons why Chinese Nationalist forces were not especially desirable, as compared with Rok forces in Korea.

From that, we got into a discussion of whether two Chinese Nationalist divisions might not be brought to combat readiness and used elsewhere, such as against the mainland of China. I expressed some astonishment that, in view of Defense's large expenditures on equipping and training Chinese divisions, there were none ready for combat. This was greeted with stony silence.

On Defense's side, it seemed to me the only sensible contribution was Joe Collins' reply to my pointed question, that he thought a successful invasion of the Chinese mainland impossible without the strong support of U. S. ground troops. Altogether, it was not a pleasant conference.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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